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(Item 3 from file: 2) 20/9/3 DIALOG(R) File 2: INSPEC (c) 2004 Institution of Electrical Engineers. All rts. reserv. INSPEC Abstract Number: A9807-0630M-002 Title: Strain gauge techniques for measuring thermal expansion Author(s): Lord, J.D. Issued by: Nat. Phys. Laboratory, Teddington, UK Publication Date: May 1997 Country of Publication: UK 4 pp. Material Identity Number: XR98-00056 Report Number: NPL CMMT(MN)012 Abstract: A novel strain gauge technique has been used to measure the thermal expansion behaviour of a number of materials including copper , aluminium and both polymer and metal matrix composites. Copper and aluminium were used for calibration purposes and validation of the technique. The values obtained from the strain gauge method for the coefficient of thermal expansion, between 25-100 degrees C, of copper and aluminium were 16.6 and 23.4*10/sup -6// degrees C respectively and these are in good agreement with typical handbook values. Two case studies are presented in this document, but a number of other materials are covered in an NPL report which describes the technique in more detail and discusses the merits and application of the gauge method. Practical tips are given where possible and strain conventional dilatometry data are presented for some materials for comparison. It is difficult to quantify the absolute accuracy of the measurements because this depends to a large extent on the quality of the strain gauge installation, but uncertainties associated with the measurements are typically 5-10%.